

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05422 241503Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 /033 W
-----034056 241507Z /40

P 241426Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4558

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5422

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS/ PINS, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. TOUTAH CALLED ON POLOFF AUGUST 24 TO REPORT LATEST INFORMATION RE TEMPORARY SYRIAN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON JEWISH COMMUNITY. HE SAID MININT HAD COLLECTED ALL OUTSTANDING SYRIAN PASSPORTS FROM JEWISH COMMUNITY. TOUTAH ADDED, HOWEVER, COMMANDANT ABA AL-SAMAD WAS WORKING WITH HIM TO DEFUSE QUESTION OF VISITS BY SYRIAN JEWISH TRAVELERS TO ISRAEL. TOUTAH ASKED THAT INFORMATION RE COMMANDANT'S COOPERATION BE HELD CLOSELY AND NOT BE PASSED OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT. YOU MAY TELL OTHERS THAT TOUTAH CONTINUES TO WORK TO DEFUSE SITUATION WITH SOME HOPE FOR SUCCESS AND POINT OUT THAT HE NOW HAS REESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THEY SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. TOUTAH SAID THAT RABBI DWECK HAD APPLIED FOR SYRIAN ENTRY VISA AND HAD BEEN REFUSED. TOUTAH TOOK THIS UP WITH COMMANDANT (COLONEL MESSAOUD IS CURRENTLY AWAY) WHO AGREED TO RECONSIDER DECISION IF DWECK WANTS TO REAPPLY. HE ASKS THAT WE LET DWECK KNOW.

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EM ON SPARATE SUBJECT TOUTAH SAID COMMUNITY HAD NOT RECEIVED MONEY FROM NEW YORK FOR FOUR MONTHS. SITUATION BECOMING URGENT PARTICULARLY SINCE JEWISH HOLIDAYS WERE COMING UP. TOUTAH SAYS NEW YORK IS AWARE OF SITUATION BUT ASKS THAT WE CONTACT A. BERT CHABOT OF CHABOT FRERES, 8 WEST 37TH ST., N.Y. 10018, TELEPHONE (212) 594-3730 AS WELL AS STEPHEN SHALOM IN TOUTAH'S NAME TO

APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL AUGMENTATION URGENTLY.

4. 4. FINALLY, TOUTAH GAVE US A COPY OF A LETTER WHICH HAD BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT ASSAD FROM JAMES M. CORBIN IN MCCAMEY, TEXAS CITING A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON A "PROGRAM TO ASSIST LADIES IN MARRIAGE AND HELP OFFER THEM A BETTER FUTURE, IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY." HE OFFERS HIMSELF AS A PROSPECTIVE BRIDEGROOM AND ASKS PRESIDENT AL-ASSAD TO SEND HIM MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM. WE ANTICIPATE NO PRESIDENTIAL REPLY BUT CONSIDER THE INNOCENCE, SINCERITY AND LACK OF POLEMICS IN SUCH CORRESPONDENCE CAN ONLY HAVE A HELPFUL EFFECT IN THE PRESIDENCY.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC05422
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1507558
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWRY
TAGS: PINS, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
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